

Definition of Postsecondary Awards

Bachelor's Degree (BD)

The bachelor's degree requires completion of at least four academic years of college-level work in an academic or occupationally specific field of study.

Advanced Certificate (AC)

The advanced certificate requires completion of 24-36 semester hours in a technical specialty. Admission to the program requires an associate degree or higher, and/or national certification in the technical specialty, and/or other specifically defined postsecondary education requirements.

Associate's Degree (AD)

The associate's degree requires completion of at least two academic years (usually 60-72 hours) of college-level work. The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) is designed primarily to prepare individuals for direct employment in a technical field.

Technical Certificate (TC)

The technical certificate requires completion of 24-36 semester hours in an occupational field. The program of study may be part of an AAS curriculum or a stand-alone program.

Certificate of Proficiency (CP)

The certificate of proficiency requires completion of one semester (7-16 credit hours) or less. It is awarded to students who have demonstrated mastery of skills and knowledge against specified performance standards in a specific area or discipline.